

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 07611 190408Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /066 W

-----191059Z 077017 /10

R 190310Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9925

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 7611

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RP, XF, LY, MY, CH, UR

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE MUSLIM ISSUE

1. MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR ABDUL HAMID BIN PAWANACHEE TOLD ME MAY 17 THAT THE LIBYANS AND THE MNLF ARE SAYING THAT THE U.S. AND THE PRC HAVE GIVEN THE GOP A GUARANTEE OF SUPPORT IN THE EVENT THAT HOSTILITIES BACKED BY OUTSIDE POWERS SHOULD RESUME IN MINDANAO. I SAID THAT NO RPT NO SUCH ASSURANCE HAS BEEN CONVEYED BY THE U.S., THAT THE U.S. HAS ENDEAVORED THROUGHOUT TO STAND BACK FROM THE CONFLICT, AND THAT OUR INTEREST LIKE THAT OF MALAYSIA AND, WE BELIEVE, THE PHILIPPINES IS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE IN THE AREA. PAWANACHEE SPECULATED THAT THE MNLF GIVES CURRENCY TO ALLEGATION IN ORDER TO LEND CREDIBILITY, IF ONLY FOR IMPACT UPON THE GOP, TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE MNLF THROUGH LIBYA MIGHT BE ABLE TO ENGAGE THE SUPPORT OF THE USSR AS A COUNTERBALANCE TO THE PRC AND THE U.S. IN THE PHILIPPINES.

2. PAWANACHEE SAID HE BELIVES THE GOP WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN THE CURRENT CEASE-FIR, BUT THE MNLF MAY WELL SERIOUSLY AND POSSIBLY SUCCESSFULLY PROVOKE THE  
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PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES AFTER THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO PAWANACHEE, THE MNLF REMAINS SURPRISINGLY COHESIVE AND PERHAPS EVEN CAPABLE OF CALLING 20,000 ARMED MEN TO THE FIGHT. UNDER GUERRILLA CONDITIONS THAT SHOULD BE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO KEEP THINGS HOT FOR THE PAF. PAWANACHEE SAID HE HOPES FOR THE BEST, BELIEVES THE CURRENT SITUATION (AT THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND IN

MINDORO) PUTS MALAYSIA IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION, BUT  
RECOGNIZES THAT MALAYSIA HAS LITTLE INFLUENCE WITH MARCOS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, RP, XF, LY, MY, CH, UR, MNLF, (PAWANACHEE, ABDUL HAMID BIN)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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